

REMARKS

The amendment amends claims 3 and 4. Claims 1-9 are currently pending.

The Action objected to the specification and rejected some of the claims under 35 USC 112. This Reply addresses these objections and rejections in the same order as the Action.

Objection to the Specification

The Action objected to claim 3 as reciting a “stair pivotally connected to an outer stringer.” This has been corrected to recite the stair’s connection to an inner stringer and thus, the undersigned requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112

Claim 1 positively recites the stairs. The Action requested clarification of whether the stairs are positively recited in claim 1. Claim 1 recites the stairs as a claim element and thus, the stairs are positively recited.

Claim 3 now recites both an inner and outer stringer. The Action required correction of claim 3 to clarify the location of a single outer stringer. In response, claim 3 now recites an outer and inner stringer as recommended by the examiner; the undersigned thanks the examiner for this suggestion.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Action indicated that claims 1-3, 7, and 9 would be allowable if they were amended or otherwise overcame the claim rejections thereto. The above

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amendments and remarks should overcome the rejection and the claims should now be allowable.

The Action also indicated allowable subject matter in claims 4-6 and 8; claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form and should now be allowable. Claims 5, 6, and 8 depend therefrom and should also now be allowable.

For the above reasons, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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